News Item Regarding South Block

7674. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Indian Express dated 19th May, 1994 under the heading "Dinesh's illness leaves South Block headless"; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto and the measures taken by Government to avoid such a situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the contents of the news story are erroneous the question of any reaction by the Government does not arise. Shri Dinesh Singh was in Delhi and in charge of the day-to-day working of the Ministry.

Diplomatic relations with the Vatican

7675. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) on what consideration Government have recognised the Vatican which is a Church, as State; and

(b) whether Government would consider discontinuing its diplomatic relations with the Vatican?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The Vatican is a city State that came into existence in terms of the Lateran Agreement between the Papacy and Republic of Italy on 7 June, 1929. It is the geographical and territorial base of the Holy See, which is recognised in international law as possessing sovereignty, exclusive jurisdiction and international legal personality. Based on these considerations, 148 countries including India have accredited Ambassadors to the Vatican which also maintains resident diplomatic Missions in 163 countries.

(b) No, Sir.

Supply of Arms by Pakistan to Militants in Kashmir

7676. DR. NAUHNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Washington Post published a report from Muzaffarbad (Pak) that Islamabad had resumed arms supply and training to Kashmiri Militants after US decided not to label it as a State sponsor of terrorism;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that I.S.I. and Pak military continue to train militants and coordinate the shipment of arms from Pak to the Indian side, if so, what is its magnitude;

(d) whether it is a fact that US State Department continue to urge Pakistan to adhere to its slated policy of not supporting Kashmiri militants; and

(e) if so, what concrete steps have been taken by Government and what success has been achieved to contain this continued menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news report states that Pakistan has resumed arming, training and provide logistical support to militants fighting security forces in Kashmir. It goes on to say that After the United States decided not to add Pakistan to the terrorist list, the Pakistan army early this year resumed its active Kashmir operations.

(c) Yes, Sir. The level of Pakistan's support to militants and subversive elements in India has not decreased.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government has taken strong